

## **EDMUND DE WAAL AT WADDESDON**

From late April 2012 Waddesdon is delighted to be collaborating with potter, artist and author Edmund de Waal on an exhibition of porcelain inspired by the Manor and its collections, and its Rothschild heritage. In 10 installations specially made for specific spaces through the house, de Waal will create a series of contemporary responses both to the opulent materials, object and interiors, and to the family passion for collecting which brought them about, a passion mirrored in his own European ancestry.

*“Waddesdon is a fabulous faux-French château in the middle of Buckinghamshire, full of Sèvres porcelain and gilt furniture and extraordinary art. It is a wonderfully nuanced bit of Rothschild assimilation into Victorian English society, a sort of dressing-up game on the grandest scale possible.*

*... so I am making a series of vitrines of porcelain to put alongside all these other vitrines. It is my take on family and display, I intend it to be really beautiful and for it to be a way of thinking through, in visual terms, some of the ideas on belonging that drift through my book *The Hare with Amber Eyes*.”* Edmund de Waal.

The porcelain, which includes garnitures, groups of objects and single pieces, will be installed throughout the principle reception rooms on the ground floor in the Breakfast Room, Dining Room, Red and Grey Drawing Rooms, Morning Room and Tower Drawing Room.

Events, which include an "in conversation" with the artist and author Tracy Chevalier on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and a Special Interest Day on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (lecture and tour of the exhibition), are scheduled during the show (20<sup>th</sup> April – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2012). Please see our website for more details from February.

For further information please contact Vicky Darby [Vicky.Darby@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Vicky.Darby@nationaltrust.org.uk) tel. 01296-653231 or Kathryn Hobbs [Kathryn.Hobbs@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Kathryn.Hobbs@nationaltrust.org.uk) tel. 01296-653259 in the Press Office at Waddesdon.

Notes to editors:

### **Waddesdon Manor**

Waddesdon Manor was built from 1874 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to display his outstanding collection of art treasures and to entertain the fashionable world. It combines the highest quality 18th century French decorative arts, magnificent English portraits and Dutch Old Master paintings with one of the finest Victorian gardens in Britain, famous for its parterre and ornate working Aviary. The house was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1957 and is now managed by a family charitable trust under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild.

Waddesdon is one of the most visited historic houses among England's National Trust properties. The collections are a reflection of the passions of the Rothschilds who created and have cared for Waddesdon, from Baron Ferdinand, who built the Manor in the late 19th-century to Jacob, the present Lord Rothschild, through whom contemporary collecting has been revived. The Coach House opened as a new venue for contemporary art exhibitions in the grounds of the Manor in April 2009 with a retrospective exhibition on the work of Angus Fairhurst, a collaboration with Arnolfini, Bristol and in 2010 showed "Glass Experiences", an exhibition of contemporary chandeliers by Brazilian designers, the Campana brothers and the installation of Jeff Koons' Cracked Egg (Blue) in the Conservatory. 2011 exhibitions focused on Andy Warhol, and included a sculpture by Anish Kapoor in the grounds, alongside permanent works by Sarah Lucas and Stephen Cox. 2011 also saw the opening of Windmill Hill, a new bespoke archive by Stephen Marshall Architects to house and offer study space for the Rothschild Family archives and the Rothschild Foundation.

Waddesdon also works with design students from the Royal College of Art and art students from the Ruskin School of Art to develop innovative product for Waddesdon's shop

### Edmund de Waal

Edmund de Waal was born in Nottingham in 1964 and started to pot when he was five. Close to clay throughout his school years, he took an apprenticeship with a potter in Canterbury before reading English at Cambridge, followed by further studies in Japan.

De Waal is considered one of the world's leading ceramic artists. His work is in the collections of 30 international museums: most recently he has created major installations for the V&A and Tate Britain. He has written widely on art and ceramics, including books on Bernard Leach, 20th-century ceramics and *The Pot Book* (Phaidon, 2011). His memoir, *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, was published by Chatto and Windus in 2010 and has won the Costa Biography Award, New Writer of the Year at the Galaxy Book Award, the Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize and the Independent Booksellers Book Prize. It has become an international bestseller and will be translated into over eighteen languages by 2013. In 2011 he was appointed a Trustee of the V&A and awarded an OBE for services to art. He lives with his family in London.

Appointed a Trustee of the V&A in Dec 2011.

To be made a Senior Fellow at the RCA, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012

To receive an honorary doctorate from UAL, date tbc 16th-19th July 2012

For enquiries about the work please contact: Stephen Feeke and NewArtCentre, Roche Court, East Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP15 1BG. T. 01980 862244. [stephen@sculpture.uk.com](mailto:stephen@sculpture.uk.com)